# Covering

INFORMATION SHEET

Covering potential pollutant–generating activities and materials is one of the most effective ways to prevent stormwater contamination. All of the options must be combined with a method to prevent run–on of stormwater into piles and runoff of any liquids that might leave the pile. See the Containment Information Sheet for more information.

The first step is reviewing what materials are stored outside and what activities are conducted outside that could cause pollutants to get on the ground.

Does the activity need to be conducted outside? Does the material need to be stored outside? Is there a suitable indoor location for these activities?

1. How often does the activity occur?
2. How often is the material used?
3. Can any of the material or equipment be removed if it is no longer needed?
4. Is it feasible to tarp materials or is a permanent structure needed?

## Tarps

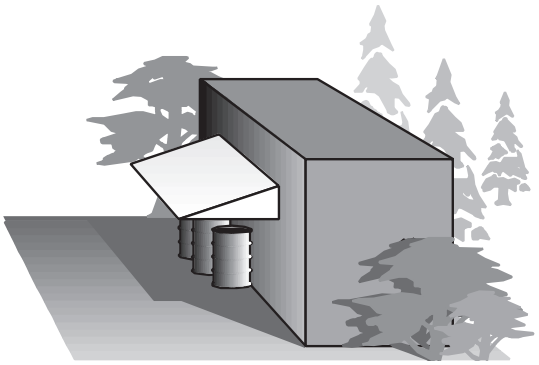
Many materials, such as stockpiles of erodible materials or storage of drums, can be by covered with a heavy plastic tarp made of impermeable material. Weights such as bricks, tires, or sandbags must be used to anchor the cover in place. Care should be taken to ensure that the tarp covers the stored materials completely and that stormwater does not penetrate the cover. If several tarps are used to form a cover, they should be tethered together or overlapped. If necessary, pins or stakes should be used to anchor the tarps to the ground. The tarp/cover will be easier to keep in place and will last longer if some form of wind protection is used or stockpiles are located in areas protected from the wind. The tarps must be in place when the material is not being used and inspected weekly to ensure that no holes or gaps are present.

TARP COVERING

## Roofs & Awnings

The other option for covering is a roof. The roof cover option used depends on the site layout, available space, affordability, and limitations imposed by other regulations. The area of the roof should be sufficient to keep the contents underneath dry. The storage/activity area must be designed to prevent stormwater run–on into the covered area. Examples of various protective structures are shown below.

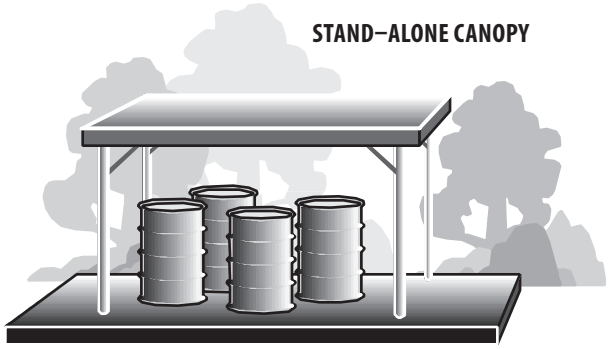
Permanent structures may require a permit and must comply with all applicable building and fire codes. Contact the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review for information on permits and code requirements for a roof structure.



OVERHANGING AWNING

LEAN–TO STRUCTURE

STAND–ALONE CANOPY

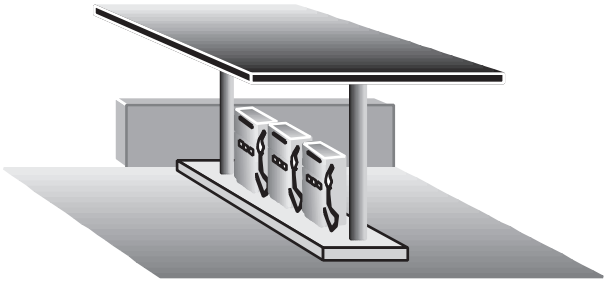


## Storage Sheds

There are also numerous prefabricated storage sheds that may be effective. Before purchasing these structures, ensure they meet applicable building and fire codes.

Another option for covering is to use an overhanging awning large enough to prevent precipitation from reaching the contents underneath. This does not include awnings already in place over a public right–of–way such as a sidewalk in front of a store, as this area is not suitable for storage or business activities. Many of the building permit, fire code, and zoning code requirements mentioned above apply to these structures.

ISLAND-TYPE OVERHANGING ROOF



Activities such as fueling operations must covered by an island–type roof. This roof is supported by columns along the center of the structure rather than at the corners, allowing vehicular traffic underneath while still providing protection from precipitation. Refer to BMP Activity Sheet A-48 for new fueling facility requirements.

***King County Department of Planning and Environmental Review***

Land Use, Fire Code, and Building Code Requirements

(206) 296–6600
*www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits*